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Red Agents Expand Activities

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover faces an expanded activity of Soviet agents here. "Enemy espionage rings are more intensely operated now than at any time in history," he says. CIA Director Richard M. Helms echoes this statement on an international scale.

Within a period of a few months not too long ago, worldwide, 107 Soviet agents were uncovered. Forty-five had diplomatic cover, 39 more were called journalists, and the Kremlin passed off 15 as businessmen, five more as Airflot airline executives and six as cultural experts.

The FBI finds that Soviet Embassy staffs contain anywhere from 50 to 80 per cent espionage personnel and that at least 80 per cent of the U.S.S.R. and Soviet-bloc delegations at the United Nations in New York are intelligence officers and not diplomats at all.

THE MOST-PROMISING Soviet agents are trained at a secret center near Kutchinsk, outside Moscow, and the best of that crop are quipertrained at Barkovo, 40 kilometers from the city. The immense new Aerodynamic Institute is their cover and the elite are housed in an old 15th Century czarist chateau across the Vereyka River.

At Barkovo selected agents are sent abroad for about a year to familiarize themselves with the target country, chiefly the United States. Then they are brought back to Barkovo, where they are trained another seven or eight years — as long as that — and returned to the target country.

Many are "made over" into citizens of the target country, equipped with a full range of false documents. Each is skilled enough to get a good position in government, scientific centers, defense or communications industries, etc.

EVERY GOVERNMENT in the world, including ours, is penetrated by a combination of enemy agents and traitors — traitors predominating. The sole question is: To what extent?

For example, a senior U. S. diplomat, never publicly disclosed, secretly committed a security breach. He was quietly permitted to resign. His trail led back through eight previous posts, all the way from West Berlin to Panama to Warsaw, with much evidence that he had been in the Soviet service a full 18 years.

The Soviet likes its agents to be married. Its

intelligence service believes in an exercise of tyranny through the exploitation of fear. Only if an agent has a wife and family that can be disgraced or imprisoned if the agent goes "bad" can the masters warn their other agents and their families what to expect.

FICTION AND TELEVISION notwithstanding, women are seldom incorporated into the Soviet espionage apparatus except as decoys or routing informers. The Kremlin fears women may become emotionally involved. A regular Soviet woman agent is rarely paid more than \$100 a month, which is about their level worldwide.

Soviet agents usually establish the identity of their "control" at a rendezvous by producing a dollar bill with the consecutive serial number to a beill the "control" is carrying. This confirms both agents' identity. A neon-tube close by will jam nearly any known micro-transmitter.

Accordingly, agents use public telephones that are near neon signs, if they can. They also keep a glass of water or a cup in front of their mouths while speaking in a restaurant, for they know that an expert FBI lip reader can tell what they are saying from several tables away.

SOME CARRY a small pressure-packed canister with odorless gas. It squirts easily, hits you fast and leaves you unconscious but otherwise unharmed. For example, at a dinner in Odessa, the American Naval, Marine and Air Attaches from our Moscow Embassy were all knocked out this way. Their papers and effects were searched and photographed before they regained consciousness.

Other Soviet agents for their own emergency suicide are given the Russian version of the Gestapo's "KCB" Cyanide pill. It combines concentrated hydrocyanic compounds so powerful that suicide is almost instantaneous — even the fumes can kill.

In any case, no Red agent can afford to run. His Moscow's masters' point of puncture is the back of the neck. But even if the agent succeeds in our country or elsewhere it may be a false dream. The Soviet frequently fools its agent by telling him it will put huge amounts of rubles in escrow for him in Moscow. Then the masters liquidate the agent for knowing too much when he comes home.